

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

CHARLESTON DIVISION

**IN RE: ETHICON, INC.,
PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEM
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 2327

**THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO
ETHICON WAVE 3 CASES**

**PRETRIAL ORDER # 210
(Docket Control Order – Wave 3 Cases)**

At my request, the parties recently submitted a joint list of 200 of the oldest cases in the Ethicon MDL (not already in Ethicon Waves 1 or 2) that name only Ethicon, Inc., Ethicon, LLC and/or Johnson & Johnson (the “Ethicon defendants”) or allege claims against only the Ethicon defendants’ products. These cases, attached hereto as Exhibit A, will be known as the “Ethicon Wave 3 cases,” and it is **ORDERED** as follows:

A. SCHEDULING DEADLINES. The following deadlines shall apply in the Ethicon Wave 3 cases:

| | |
|--|------------|
| Plaintiff Fact Sheets. | 03/21/2016 |
| Defendant Fact Sheets. | 04/19/2016 |
| Deadline for written discovery requests. | 06/06/2016 |
| Expert disclosure by plaintiffs. | 07/04/2016 |
| Expert disclosure by defendants. | 08/02/2016 |
| Expert disclosure for rebuttal purposes. | 08/16/2016 |
| Deposition deadline and close of discovery. | 08/30/2016 |
| Filing of Dispositive Motions. | 09/06/2016 |
| Response to Dispositive Motions. | 09/23/2016 |
| Reply to response to dispositive motions. | 10/03/2016 |
| Filing of <i>Daubert</i> motions. | 09/19/2016 |
| Responses to <i>Daubert</i> motions. | 10/07/2016 |
| Reply to response to <i>Daubert</i> motions. | 10/17/2016 |

1. **Discovery Completion Date.** The last date to complete depositions shall be the “discovery completion date” by which all discovery, including disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1), and (2), but not disclosures required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3), shall be completed.

2. **Limitations on Interrogatories, Requests for Admissions and Depositions.** The following limitations apply:

- a. Defendants are limited to 10 interrogatories and 10 requests for admission per plaintiff.
- b. Plaintiffs are limited to 10 interrogatories and 10 requests for admission to the Ethicon defendants.
- c. In each individual member case, no more than 4 treating physicians may be deposed.¹
- d. Depositions of plaintiff’s friends and family members may be taken at any time prior to trial provided the deposition is requested before the discovery completion date.
- e. Depositions of any witness are limited to 3 hours absent agreement of the parties.
- f. The court will consider modifications to the above limitations upon good cause shown.

3. **Limitations on Experts.** The following limitations related to experts apply:

¹ To the extent disputes arise regarding the division of time between the parties for the deposition of treating physicians (three hours total absent agreement), I will address those disputes, rather than the assigned Magistrate Judge, Judge Eifert.

- a. The parties may conduct general and specific expert discovery on the products at issue in Ethicon Wave 3. In light of the bellwether trials and Waves 1 and 2 and the substantial discovery conducted to date on the Ethicon defendants' products, the parties are cautioned not to engage in duplicative general expert discovery, but instead, to tailor their discovery to the remaining Ethicon defendants' products at issue (to the extent such discovery is necessary), supplementing any discovery already completed and conducting specific causation discovery for the Ethicon Wave 3 plaintiffs. In light of the common products involved in Ethicon Wave 3, the likelihood of overlap in expert opinion from one case to another (except as to specific causation) and the need to streamline discovery in these cases, **each side is limited to no more than five (5) experts per case (exclusive of treating physicians)**. It is the court's expectation that these experts will overlap for plaintiffs who have the same product(s), to some extent, if not entirely.
- b. The parties shall coordinate the depositions of general causation experts. Insofar as multiple plaintiffs utilize the same general causation expert or experts, those experts shall be deposed only once on the issue of general causation. As to Ethicon's experts, plaintiffs are instructed to choose a lead questioner.
- c. The court encourages the coordination of depositions of specific causation experts to the extent there is overlap in the parties' use of specific causation experts for multiple plaintiffs.

- d. The court will consider modifications to the above limitations upon good cause shown.

B. MOTION PRACTICE.

1. **Early Dispositive Motions.** If discovery (e.g., the deposition of plaintiff and her implanting physician) reveals facts that could support a motion that would be dispositive of the *entirety* of a plaintiff's claims (e.g., causation, the statute of limitations), either party may seek the court's leave *in the individual member case* to file an early dispositive motion on that issue. If such leave is granted, the court shall set a briefing schedule at that time.

2. **Daubert Motions.** For the filing of *Daubert* motions on general causation issues only, the parties are instructed to file one *Daubert* motion per expert in the main MDL (MDL 2327) instead of the individual member case. Each side may file one response and one reply in the main MDL to each *Daubert* motion. This limitation does not apply to specific causation *Daubert* motions, responses and replies. Specific causation *Daubert* motions, responses and replies must be filed in the individual member cases. To the extent an expert is both a general and specific causation expert, the parties may file a general causation motion in the main MDL 2327 and an individual specific causation motion in an individual member case.

3. **Hearings.** Hearing dates for dispositive and *Daubert* motions, if any, will be set at a future status conference.

4. **Page Limitations.** The page limitations provided in Local Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1(a)(2) apply to memoranda in support of all dispositive and *Daubert* motions, oppositions, and replies, and the court will not be inclined to grant motions to exceed the page limit.

5. **Confidential Documents.** In the past, the court has permitted parties to file placeholder exhibits in support of *Daubert*, dispositive and other motions, responses and replies in the place of confidential documents that may be sealed and then, within five days, redact/dedesignate the documents or file a motion to seal. *Moving forward, the court will no longer permit this practice. Parties may no longer file placeholder exhibits.* The court expects leadership counsel for plaintiffs and the Ethicon defendants to resolve issues related to confidential designations well before the filing of motions. Filings containing placeholder exhibits will be struck. In the event there are issues related to sealing of confidential documents that the parties are unable to resolve, they must be brought to the court's attention in a consolidated manner as follows: A consolidated motion to seal is due on or before **August 9, 2016**, any response is due **August 19, 2016** and any reply is due **August 29, 2016**.

6. **Locations of Filings.** With the exception of the general causation *Daubert* motions as outlined above, the parties are reminded that they must file dispositive and *Daubert* motions on specific causation, responses and replies in the applicable member cases only, not in the Ethicon MDL.

C. CASES READY FOR TRANSFER, REMAND OR TRIAL

1. **Venue Recommendations.** By no later than **July 15, 2016**, the parties shall meet and confer concerning the appropriate venue for each of the cases, and the parties shall submit joint venue recommendations to the court by **July 25, 2016**. The parties' joint recommendation(s) shall identify the cases about which the recommended venue is in dispute. The court may then request briefing concerning the venue for those cases about which the parties disagree. Each party reserves the right to object to the venue selected by its adversary or the court.

2. **Transfer and Remand.** At the conclusion of pre-trial proceedings, the court, pursuant to PTO # 15 and 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a), will transfer each directly-filed case to a federal district court of proper venue as defined in 28 U.S.C. § 1391. In the alternative, pursuant to PTO # 15 and 28 U.S.C. § 1407, cases that were transferred to this court by the MDL panel shall be remanded for further proceedings to the federal district court from which each such case was initially transferred.²


3. **Trial Settings.** If a case is to be tried in the United States District Court for the Southern District of West Virginia (either by agreement of the parties or where venue in the Southern District is determined to be proper by the court), the case shall be deemed trial-ready when discovery is completed and the court rules on the parties' pretrial motions. The trial date for cases transferred or remanded to other federal district courts shall be set by the judge to whom the transferred or remanded case is assigned (including the undersigned through intercourt assignment).

The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to file a copy of this order in 2:12-md-2327 and in the Ethicon Wave 3 cases identified in Exhibit A. In cases subsequently filed in this district after 2:15-cv-16245, a copy of the most recent pretrial order will be provided by the Clerk to counsel appearing in each new action at the time of filing of the complaint. In cases subsequently removed or transferred to this court, a copy of the most recent pretrial order will be provided by the Clerk to counsel appearing in each new action upon removal or transfer. It shall be the responsibility

² As expressly contemplated by PTO # 15, the Ethicon defendants do not waive their right to seek transfer—pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1406(a) or any other available ground—of any case to a court of proper venue, regardless of whether that case was transferred to or directly-filed in the Southern District of West Virginia.

of the parties to review and abide by all pretrial orders previously entered by the court. The orders may be accessed through the CM/ECF system or the court's website at www.wvsd.uscourts.gov.

ENTER: December 18, 2015



JOSEPH R. GOODWIN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE